

DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES, SOUTH-SOUTH SOLUTIONS

E-newsletter of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation in UNDP



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1) New Cities Offering Solutions for Growing Urban Populations

Across the global South, new cities are being dreamed up by architects, city planners and governments, or are already under construction. Two new urban areas being built offer lessons for others in the global South. They both deploy intelligent solutions to the combined demands of urbanization, growing populations and rising expectations.

An eco-city in China and a smart city in the Republic of Korea are tackling today and tomorrow's challenges.

A joint initiative between China and Singapore, the Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city project (www.tianjinecocity.gov.sg) located on reclaimed land some 45 kilometres from the booming Chinese city of Tianjin and 150 kilometres from Beijing is an attempt to create a replicable model for other cities in China and the global South. Already well under way, with the first phase of construction nearly complete, the Eco-city's hallmarks include encouraging walking, reducing reliance on private vehicles and aiming to generate twenty per cent of the city's energy from renewable sources. It is run from the Chinese by Tianjin TEDA Investment Holding Co., Ltd. and in Singapore by the Keppel Group.

It is located ten kilometres from the Tianjin Economic Technological Development Area (TEDA), a fast-growing high-tech business hub in its own right. Called an "integrated work, live, play and learn environment," it is a mix of public and private housing based on the highly successful model developed in Singapore. The concept of an "eco-city" was first raised by Richard Register in his 1987 book *EcoCity Berkeley: Building Cities for a Healthy Future*. It was to be a place that minimizes inputs of energy, water and food and outputs of waste heat, air pollution, carbon dioxide, methane and water pollution. Like smart cities, eco-cities are taking shape in various forms around the world. Some are applying the concept and principles of an eco-city to an existing place, while others are being built from scratch.

The Tianjin Eco-city is a mix of elements designed to make it sustainable in the long-term. It includes an "eco-valley" running through the development as its centrepiece green space to encourage walking and cycling between the major centres of the city. It has the usual urban services from schools to shops and restaurants but also, critically, a growing range of business parks to support employment.

Unlike green initiatives in wealthy, developed countries, it is hoped that the Tianjin Eco-city will prove a more relevant model for the global South. It has factored in the need to make an eco-city pay its way and generate new business and innovations. It is trying to address the pressing urgency of China's growing population and rapid urbanization while balancing people's expectations of rising living standards. As in other countries in the global South, people aspire to a higher standard of living and this needs to be taken into consideration when planning eco cities.

Ho Tong Yen, Chief Executive Officer of Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city, says its aim is "sustainable development packaged in a way that is uniquely Asian."

He says the project is intended to be "practical, replicable and scalable."

"Practical at its core is building something that the market can support, something that is affordable given the economic development of the region,"

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he said. "The idea is that this model must be one that is replicable and scalable in other parts of China. Now, strictly speaking, there is no reason that it needs to be just for China; it really might be replicable in other developing countries as well. Our starting point, however, is to find a model that might work for China.

"I think it is still a work in progress a bold experiment and it is a long-term experiment. The idea is to create an eco-city that can support a population of 350,000 over a ten to fifteen year horizon. In some ways, it is a city that does not look all that much different from other Chinese cities. But if you look at the subtleties, the building orientation, the renewable energy, the transit oriented developments, the walkability concepts these are all the elements we built into this project."

"An eco-city is not necessarily a science-fiction-like concept; it is something that is very real, very doable. It looks a lot like a normal city; it is not a special city in a glass dome."

The explosion in information technologies in the past decade has reshaped the way that cities can be planned, run and developed. The connectivity brought about by now ubiquitous electronic devices such as mobile phones and the ever-expanding information networks connected by fibre-optic cables is giving rise to so-called "smart cities." These urban areas draw on information technologies to use resources more efficiently and reduce waste, while; it is hoped, better serving the needs of residents. Real-time information can be gleaned to monitor energy use, or traffic congestion, or crime, while constant online connectivity enables the efficient delivery of a multitude of services to residents.

Smart cities vary in their scope and ambition. Some are existing urban areas given a modern upgrade, while others, such as the Songdo International Business District (IBD) (www.songdoibd.com) smart city in the Republic of Korea, are planned and built from scratch.

Built on 1,500 acres (607 hectares) of reclaimed land from the Yellow Sea in Incheon, Songdo International Business District is being built by Gale International and POSCO E&C of the Republic of Korea. It is considered one of the largest public/private real-estate ventures in the world. Due to be completed in 2017, it will be home to 65,000 people (22,000 currently live there), while 300,000 people will commute daily to work. Fifteen years in the making and costing over US\$35 billion, it is called a "synergistic city" because it contains all the elements necessary for people to live a high-quality life.

Currently fifty per cent complete, Songdo IBD is considered one of Asia's largest green developments and a world leader in meeting Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) <https://new.usgbc.org/leed> standards for green buildings. For example, it has the first LEED-certified hotel in the Republic of Korea, the Sheraton Incheon. These high green standards have led to the United Nations Green Climate Fund Secretariat establishing its headquarters in Songdo, with a slated opening in 2013.

Songdo is "smart" because information technology connects all its systems: residences, buildings, offices, schools, hospitals, hospitality and retail outlets. This includes more than 10,000 Cisco TelePresence units (<http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/ps7060/index.html>) menu-driven video screens being installed in the residences to connect them to all the services available in Songdo.

It also benefits from proximity to Incheon International Airport, consistently voted one of the best in the world, giving residents quick access to other Asian cities such as Shanghai, Tokyo and Hong Kong. This connection between urban development and a highly connected airport is being called an "aerotropolis."

Songdo smart city is just one part of a massive regional development plan, using reclaimed land from the sea and marshlands. The residential and business developments are all being linked to Incheon International Airport, which is being positioned as a transport hub and gateway to Northeast Asia; it boasts of being a three-and-a-half-hour flight to one third of the world's population. The idea is to create a thriving international business hub that is a short flight away from Asia's booming and fast-growing economic centres.

"The beauty is you are doing everything from scratch; you are using newer building technology, newer systems," said Scott Summers, Vice President of Foreign Investment for developer Gale International Korea, LLC.

"You are not going into a city and ripping up old things and then putting in new systems. You have a greater opportunity to install this technology, the backbone (information technology from Cisco), to allow these services and connectivity to work properly because you are laying wires in buildings from the get-go rather than going in afterwards."

Summers believes that it is the high-tech component of Songdo that will set it apart from other cities in the future. Songdo is being built with a combination of innovative sustainable-development technologies and the latest in information technologies provided by Cisco.

"That is one of the reasons we are pushing this technology, because it is how a city operates that is important," Summers said.

"The operation of a city, to do it well, is going to improve the success of it. [To] embed into the development of the city some of the technologies of sustainable development, to put in the pneumatic waste system, grey water system, the co-generation, all of those things are much easier to do on raw land."

Sojeong Sylvia Sohn, owner of Songdo's Kyu, a Korean fusion cuisine restaurant, was attracted to Songdo and is banking on its future growth. Sohn said Seoul's "existing commercial area was just saturated."

"Songdo International City in Incheon is the future for the region and early business tenants are coming here for investment purposes. It has uncluttered streets and modern buildings, being an international city; this makes it attractive."

LINKS:

Eco-city World Summit: The International Eco-city Conference Series brings together the key innovators, decision makers, technologists, businesses and organizations shaping the conversation around ecological and sustainable city, town and village design, planning and development. **Website:** <http://www.ecocityworldsummit.org/>

Richard Florida: The Creative Class Group is a boutique advisory-services firm composed of leading next-generation researchers, academics and strategists. **Website:** http://www.creativeclass.com/richard_florida

Global Urbanist: An online magazine reviewing urban affairs and urban development issues in cities throughout the developed and developing world. **Website:** <http://globalurbanist.com/>

UN-Habitat: The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is the United Nations agency for human settlements. It is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. **Website:** <http://www.unhabitat.org>

Eco-Cities: A Planning Guide by Zhifeng Yang. **Website:** <http://tinyurl.com/d26rxdx>

2) Creating Green Fashion in China

China is the world's largest manufacturer (Euromonitor) and the largest clothing maker, producing a quarter of all textiles and clothing. It is a global fashion production hub and many major global clothing brands have their products made there, whether they admit it or not.

Although most people probably do not give it a second thought, the fashion and clothing industries can be highly polluting and exploitative. The use of toxic fertilizers to boost cotton yields leaves behind a legacy of contaminated soil and water tables. Dyes used to colour clothing also can be toxic and pollute water. For people working in this industry, many of whom are women; conditions can vary widely and include low pay and a high level of stress.

According to the Ethical Fashion Forum, "It is difficult for companies sourcing from China to be sure of fair working practices. There have been many reports of low wages, long hours, and unfair working conditions in factories in China."

However, one innovative fashion brand is out to transform the way that the garment business works in China and to develop a template that could be used in other places such as Africa. The design duo of Hans Martin Galliker and Amihan Zemp has set up their clothing brand's studio in one of Beijing's historic Hutong (alley) neighbourhoods: narrow streets of low-rise buildings that were the traditional urban dwelling environments for generations of Chinese people. The NEEMIC (www.neemic.com) brand, founded in 2011, makes sustainable fashions and champions green production methods in China.

The business's view is that the world has enough fabric already to meet the clothing needs of the population. In response, NEEMIC makes its clothing from a mix of recycled natural materials and new organic materials. According to its website, NEEMIC collaborates "with young designers from London to Tokyo to create a particular metropolitan aesthetic."

"We use the finest natural fabrics for a perfectly comfortable feel," Galliker said. "We pick the finest natural materials from leftovers of the industry, recycle used clothes, and strive to order new fabrics only from certified organic producers."

Hans Martin Galliker began as a farming apprentice in his native Switzerland and brings a practical side to his approach to fashion. He draws on his knowledge of farming and agriculture to create a unique eco-conscious fashion product in China. Galliker got his start in fashion working for a brand in Shenzhen, southern China. He

worked with the organic farms there, and this inspired him to explore sustainability in fashion design and ways of introducing the principles of fair trade to the fashion and textile industries in China.

Galliker is passionate about taking a different attitude to fashion: "There are many fashion brands and many of them are ... meaningless," he told the China Daily newspaper. "They do fashion which looks more or less ... the same, which has no creativity and does a lot of harm to the environment."

"Growing cotton is highly chemical and labour-intensive, which degrades the soil and pays people very low salaries. And the dyeing and colouring processes pollute rivers and people receive low salaries but have to work long hours. The whole textile industry is really bad for the environment."

NEEMIC has completed three collections of clothing since it was founded in 2011. "We started selling some of our designs at a boutique in Beijing that focuses on upcycling fashion. People like it and want to buy more," said Galliker. "Upcycling" is the process of converting waste material or useless products into new products of better quality or for better environmental value (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upcycling>). Intern to counter any negative perceptions that organic cotton clothing can only ever be unfashionable, Galliker is out to prove that it is possible to create stylish organic clothing.

On top of building the brand, Galliker also works to educate the industry and change ways. He is also setting up a branch in China of the Hong Kong Organic Textile Association (<http://neemic.asia/organic>), which encourages fashion designers to jointly buy organic materials. He also publishes a website on sustainable agricultural practices in China, with details on current policies on organic farming. "It is very normal for Chinese farmers to use many fertilizers, but the environment is going bad and consumers do not like this kind of farming," Galliker points out. "For farmers, it's not meaningful to produce only to make money to live a decent life. It should be more than that."

The NEEMIC operation is lean: the Beijing studio does all the designing of the clothes and programming of the multilingual websites and runs the online shopping and payment sites. For now, the goal is not only to increase the use of organically grown materials but also to introduce the fair-trade concept into China.

"In two years we want to do fair-trade production," Galliker said. He has Africa in his sights with his green fashion template. "In the long term we will have many successful projects here or non-profit companies...a lot of creative force and investment so that we can help rural regions in Africa to do sustainable agriculture projects."

LINKS:

Ethical Fashion Forum: The Ethical Fashion Forum is the industry body dedicated to a sustainable future for fashion. A not-for-profit organisation, EFF aims to make it easy for fashion professionals to integrate sustainability into the heart of what they do. **Website:** <http://www.ethicalfashionforum.com/>

Hong Kong Organic Textile Association: Its mission is to promote organic textiles in Hong Kong. **Website:** <http://www.facebook.com/HKOrganicTextileAssociation>

Tips on how to upcycle **Website:** <http://www.independent.co.uk/property/interiors/the-insider--how-to-upcycle-without-much-effort-2343100.html>

How to create a Lookbook for a fashion brand **Website:** <http://noisetteacademy.com/2011/05/creating-a-lookbook/>

3) Biogas Digester-in-a-Bag Brings Portability

Securing energy sources that are cheap (or free) and renewable can significantly reduce the cost of living for the world's poor. The cost of fuel for essentials such as cooking and lighting can quickly use up household incomes. Gaining access to an inexpensive gas source that is also renewable can help people to divert their income to other things, such as education and health care, improving individuals' well-being and helping to boost wealth.

Biogas (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biogas>) is fuel made from biodegradable organic material such as kitchen, animal or human waste. It can be converted into gas either by being heated or using anaerobic bacteria to break down the material and turn it into combustible methane gas (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Methane>). However, most biogas systems are complex and large, involving an enormous domed biodigester.

But a clever solution from Kenya, the Flexi Biogas system (www.biogas.co.ke), is different. It is designed to be highly portable and scalable depending on a person's needs. The Flexi Biogas system is a pillow-shaped PVC tarpaulin, measuring 6 metres by 3 metres. It comes in two parts: a plastic digester bag on the inside and a greenhouse-like plastic tunnel on the outside. The tunnel traps heat and keeps temperatures between 25 and 36 degrees Celsius.

Subjected to the heat of the sun, the environment inside the bag encourages microbes to digest the organic material – or substrate (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enzyme_substrate_%28biology%29), as it is known, releasing biogas bubbles and inflating the bag with methane. This gas is then sent through a PVC tube that can be connected to a gas-burning appliance such as a cooking stove. Currently, most people use the biogas for lighting and cooking but it also produces enough gas to run agricultural machinery. The Flexi Biogas digester sits on the ground and thus is easy to observe and understand. The Flexi Biogas system is designed, built and sold by Kenya's Biogas International Ltd., which has sold 200 of the systems since 2011. In 2012, the company partnered with the United Nations' International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) ifad.org, to install nine systems on dairy farms in Kenya. These Flexi Biogas systems use kitchen and human waste to produce electricity for lighting and to provide Internet service.

Cows produce fifteen to thirty kilograms of dung a day (IFAD). By placing twenty kilograms of fresh cow dung into a Flexi Biogas digester, it is possible to produce 1,000 litres of cooking gas – enough gas for a family of five to seven people. This amount of cow dung could also produce enough gas to run a five-horsepower engine for one hour. The engine could also be connected to a car alternator to generate electricity to run lights, a computer or a television set.

A Flexi Biogas system costs US\$410, including installation by technicians and all the extras, including inlet and outlet pipes and a fifteen metre gas pipe. The cost of the system increased from the first prototypes. Initially, inexpensive plastic was used for the bags and the total cost for the system was US\$180 but the makers encountered a problem with durability: the systems were prone to tearing and needed to be replaced after two years. Since then, they have moved to a more expensive PVC tarpaulin bag designed to last 10 years. The makers point out that access to high-quality plastic and rubber in Kenya is difficult and the system's costs could be brought down if they were manufactured in China or India.

The makers argue that there are several reasons why the Flexi Biogas solution is suited to Africa. One is the difficulty of securing land tenure, necessary for the building of a permanent structure such as a biodigester dome. It can also be a challenge to find skilled labour and obtain access to complex parts such as gas pressure regulators.

In a comparison between the conventional dome biogas digester and the Flexi Biogas system, IFAD found that the average cost in Kenya for a dome system was US\$1,000, compared to US\$410 for the Flexi Biogas system. A fixed dome takes 21 days on average to set up while a Flexi Biogas system can be set up in a day. The Flexi Biogas system also turns the substrate into biogas faster and can operate at higher temperatures. IFAD found various advantages and disadvantages to the Flexi Biogas solution: it is relatively inexpensive, lightweight (10 kilograms), very portable, quick and simple to set up, and easy to operate. The disadvantages include being costly to make and easy to steal and having a relatively short lifespan.

Weighing the pros and cons, IFAD still concluded that "the Flexi Biogas system is an affordable solution that provides household energy while making use of waste products that would otherwise add to emissions."

LINKS:

The official portal on anaerobic digestion **Website:** <http://www.biogas-info.co.uk/>

REA Biogas: REA Biogas has been championing the cause of anaerobic digestion (AD) and has been the unifying force that has helped to bring the industry forward. **Website:** <http://www.biogas.org.uk/>

Practical Action: Various renewable energy solutions including biogas. **Website:** http://practicalaction.org/biogas_expertise

Future Biogas: Future Biogas specialise in the construction and operation of biogas plants for the United Kingdom. **Website:** <http://www.futurebiogas.com/>

4) Powerful Solar Light Spurring Income-making Opportunities

In recent A clever innovator from India has built a highly durable solar lantern that also doubles as a mobile phone charger.

The Sunlite lantern – the JS 30 MOB Sunlite, made by Sunlite Solar (sunlite-solar.com) is an LED (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Light-emitting_diode) light packed with clever innovations. It is completely self-contained and does not require any extra parts, cables or separate solar panel to charge it. The clever design includes a pop-up, fold-down handle, a powerful solar photovoltaic (PV) panel on its top that, with a day out in the sun charges the lantern battery enough to provide around 8 hours of 360-degree light when the sun goes down. It is also highly durable. It is moisture and heat resistant and also can withstand being dropped on a hard floor.

The manufacturer of the Sunlite lantern is India Impex, which focuses on making and exporting high-quality off-grid solar lighting products and sees itself as a "socially driven company." Founded in 2009, it has built up its reputation as a global vendor to humanitarian and relief agencies.

To date, the Sunlite lantern has been in Japan distributed to people following the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, after the 2011 floods in Thailand and to refugees caught up in the on-going crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic.

"For the size of the lamp, for the number of hours, for the features we give, including the mobile (phone) charging, we are 100 per cent portable, it is all integrated," said Sunlite representative Divyesh Thakkar, while demonstrating the lantern at the 2012 Global South-South Development Expo, held recently in Vienna, Austria (southsoutexpo.org).

The mobile phone charging capability has been seized as a great way to turn the lantern into an income-generating opportunity. Already, people are forming co-ops and charging rent time on the lantern for recharging mobile phones. Also, there are a few clever tweaks to the lantern to help to control this. "I don't want this to be abused; I want it to be smart," said Thakkar. "When someone comes in and charges the mobile phone and forgets, it is going to cut off after 20 minutes."

Sunlite lanterns have many uses, according to the product's maker. One aspect that the manufacturer is emphasizing is the importance of light to the security of women and children. There is overwhelming evidence that better lighting makes for a more secure environment and enables people to do more things safely at night. Children can look out for environmental threats such as poisonous snakes and spiders, and women and girls can feel safe doing things such as going to the toilet without worrying that somebody might attack them in the dark.

Solar power is being seen as a way to deliver electricity to people in areas bypassed by conventional electricity grid networks. It also helps to move people away from expensive, polluting and dangerous alternatives such as diesel generators, paraffin lamps, gas stoves and coal or dung fires.

"We compare our solar lantern to the kerosene lantern," Sunlite representative Sagar Mehta explained. "On a payback basis, you use an approximate of 30 to 40 cents of a US dollar of kerosene every day for a four-hour light. First of all, it is very harmful - smoke inhalation, illnesses, burns, all sorts of things, security issues.

"That will cost a family one third or half of its income on a daily basis. If we can change this around where if we can make a solar lantern, where the sun is free, that can pay back in three months and you start earning rather than paying, [they are] making a living."

Solar-powered devices have many advantages. Their batteries can power up during the day while sitting in the sunshine and then be a source of light and electricity at night. This free energy source reduces the cost of running lights at night and means that people can undertake a wide range of activities, from reading and studying to running a business or socializing. Some have even used Sunlite lanterns as landing lights for aircraft runways in Africa.

Sunlite lanterns are currently being distributed to people in disaster situations and also in refugee camps and communities of displaced persons. "The lamp was developed as a basic light for refugees who don't have anything and have been displaced from homes," said Mehta. "We supply in excess of 50,000 lamps every year to aid agencies, in particular the [UN] refugee agency." In order to keep tight control on quality and be able to have an inventory of lanterns ready to go on a moment's notice, the company has invested in and set up its own in-house manufacturing facilities in India.

Sunlite Solar sees itself as a social enterprise. It is not focused on quick profits, and developing the lantern has taken time. "It requires a huge amount of investment and time," said Thakkar. "We spent two years without selling a single piece. What we did was our R&D [research and development] and went out in the field, some of the most dangerous places – Rwanda, Uganda. Actually training people to use it and getting the awareness. "When you work with the UN, when you work through other government channels, it is just a long process which you have to be willing to go through."

LINKS:

More information on how renewable solar technologies work. **Website:**

<http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Generating-energy/Choosing-a-renewable-technology/Solar-panels-PV>

Solar Sister: Solar Sister eradicates energy poverty by empowering women with economic opportunity.

Website: <http://www.solarsister.org/>

D.Light Design: D.light is a for-profit social enterprise whose purpose is to create new freedom for customers without access to reliable power so that they can enjoy a brighter future. **Website:**

<http://www.dlightdesign.com/>

5) Global South Urbanization Does Not Have to Harm Biodiversity

How to balance fragile ecosystems with rapid urbanization will be the challenge for planners and governments across the global South in the coming years. The urbanization trend is clear: the world's total urban area is expected to triple between 2000 and 2030, with urban populations set to double to around 4.9 billion in the same period (UNEP). This urban expansion will draw heavily on water and other natural resources and will consume prime agricultural land. Global urbanization will have significant implications for biodiversity and ecosystems if current trends continue, with knock-on effects for human health and development, according to a new assessment by the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Cities and Biodiversity Outlook, the first global analysis of how projected patterns of urban land expansion will affect biodiversity and crucial ecosystems, argues that promoting low-carbon, resource-efficient urban development can counter adverse effects of urbanisation on biodiversity while improving quality of life. "The way our cities are designed, the way people live in them and the policy decisions of local authorities, will define, to a large extent, future global sustainability," said Braulio Dias, Executive Secretary of the CBD. "The innovation lies not so much in developing new infrastructural technologies and approaches but to work with what we already have. The results often require fewer economic resources and are more sustainable," he added.

The report says urban expansion is occurring fast in areas close to biodiversity hotspots and coastal zones. And rapidly urbanizing regions, such as large and mid-size settlements in sub-Saharan Africa, China and India, often lack resources to implement sustainable urban planning.

The study found however, that cities do not need to be in conflict with plant and animal species and ecosystems. They can, in fact, protect species, as is the case in Belgium, where 50 per cent of the country's floral species are found in Brussels, or Poland, where 65 per cent of the country's bird species occur in Warsaw.

At the Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Research on Biological Resources in Bogota, Colombia (www.humboldt.org.co), researchers have been thinking about how to achieve the right balance and make sure that the growing cities of the future are not ecological disasters. According to Juana Marino and María Angélica Mejía at the Institute's Biological Resources Policy Programme, which investigates biodiversity, ecosystem services and urban-regional environments, how cities grow and develop must change. They believe that cities need to take into account the resources that they require to function and the impact that this has on biodiversity and ecosystems.

"The more people who arrive in cities, the more they demand goods and services [in a massive way!] like roads, housing, infrastructure, food, water [creating] an impressive amount of waste, challenging traditional waste management and sanitation policies," said Marino. In short, "Cities enhance consumption."

The Humboldt researchers believe that common patterns can be seen across the global South, where ecosystems "surrounding urban areas are deforested and have significant levels of water and air pollution; they also become deeply transformed by informal settlements." This process means that cities "lose their ability to be resilient, they become highly vulnerable to global change and they decrease their production of ecosystem services to maintain human well-being in cities."

They argue that human settlements must be sustainably planned for, with ecological resilience and human well-being. If this is not done, areas suitable for agricultural production and biodiversity preservation will be harmed. While better planning is needed there also needs to be long-term thinking. However, planning and managing are not the only requirements, "It is a matter of design" if new "resilient" urban-rural landscapes are to be created. What can be done? They believe that better analysis is required. It needs to take on social, cultural knowledge and take in the border regions around cities. The "suburban, peri-urban and other 'transition' landscapes should become main actors in these relationships, not mere by-products; [they are] compromise territories between a lack of definition and low governance." These complex relationships with the border ecosystems of cities need to be communicated to the general public in simple, user-friendly ways so they can understand how important these areas are to the overall health of the city.

In Latin America, the cities of Curitiba (Brazil) and Bogotá and Medellín (Colombia) have made great strides in managing and planning for biodiversity and ecosystem services, the researchers say. However, it is not just as simple as recording the number of native species and the percentage of protected areas in urban places. Links need to be created between "social, scientific and political" elements to create "socio-ecological indicators" that can be developed and turned into "easy-to-adopt mechanisms" for people to use.

The researchers see innovation as the way to do this. Innovation is critical if cities and urban areas are to avoid widespread destruction of biodiversity as urbanization increases. "Innovation is not just an option - it is a 'must'," said Marino. "Not just the technical innovation already being carried on by infrastructure, transport and building sectors that are rapidly changing their patterns based on mitigation technologies. Innovation is also needed in terms of biodiversity, biotechnology, information and knowledge production, appropriation, use and management. Knowledge turns into innovation when appropriated by social spheres, when it enters the social and political arenas." Environmental governance can be strengthened "when promoting top-down and bottom-up innovations."

LINKS:

Environmental Public Awareness Handbook: Case Studies and Lessons Learned in Mongolia. **Website:** <http://tinyurl.com/yhjyd7h>

Hyderabad Case Study: During the recent UN biodiversity talks in Hyderabad, the International Union for Conservation of Nature gave journalists the opportunity to see how biodiversity can thrive in the middle of a bustling metropolis. **Website:** <http://www.rtcc.org/hyderabad-a-showcase-of-urban-biodiversity/>

UNEP: A Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity was launched by UNEP, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), UN-Habitat, the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives(ICLEI), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Countdown 2010, the United National Institute for Training and Research(UNITAR), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and a Steering Group of Mayors from Curitiba, Montreal, Bonn, Nagoya and Johannesburg to bring together existing initiatives on cities and biodiversity. **Website:** http://www.unep.org/urban_environment/issues/biodiversity.asp

Nature in the City: a project of Earth Island Institute is San Francisco's first organization wholly dedicated to ecological conservation, restoration and stewardship of the San Franciscan bioregion. **Website:** <http://natureinthecity.org/urbanbiodiversity.php>

WINDOW ON THE WORLD

Southern Innovator (ISSN 2222-9280) magazine's third issue is now online and print copies are available for distribution. The third issue's theme is agribusiness and food security. To view the issue online click [here](#), if you would like to sponsor this issue or any other issues, please contact us at southsouth@undp.org.

Issue 4, on cities and urbanization, is in development. Please contact the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation if you would like a copy (copies) of Southern Innovator (<http://ssc.undp.org/content/ssc.html>).

The covers for issues 2 and 3 are below:



Issue 3, on agribusiness and food security, is now ready. Issues 4 and 5 are also in the works for 2013.

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Issue 1 of Southern Innovator was called "...a terrific tour de force of what is interesting, cutting edge and relevant in the global mobile/ICT space..."

Also please check out our South-South Expo: 2012's Expo which was held in Vienna, Austria:
www.southsouthexpo.org

BOOKS

The New Harvest: Agricultural Innovation in Africa by Calestous Juma, Publisher: Oxford University Press.
Website: http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/publication/20504/new_harvest.html

Innovative Africa: The New Face of Africa: Essays on the Rise of Africa's Innovation Age by Will Mutua and Mbwana Ally, Publisher: Afrinnovator. **Website:** <http://book.afrinnovator.com/>

The Coming Prosperity by Philip Auerswald, Publisher: Oxford University Press. **Website:** <http://auerswald.org/>

The Landgrabbers by Fred Pearce, Publisher: Eden Project Books. **Website:** <http://www.randomhouse.co.uk/editions/9781905811731>

The Revenge of Geography by Robert D. Kaplan, Publisher: Random House. **Website:** <http://www.randomhouse.com/book/209683/the-revenge-of-geography-by-robert-d-kaplan>

Need, Speed and Greed: How the New Rules of Innovation Can Transform Businesses, Propel Nations to Greatness, and Tame the World's Most Wicked Problems by Vijay Vaitheeswaran, Publisher: Harper Business. **Website:** www.amazon.com

Emerging Economies: The Geopolitics of the BRICS Nations Publisher: Stratfor. They make up nearly half the world's population and wield significant influence within their respective regions. Combined, their GDPs are not too far behind that of the United States. Understand the geopolitics of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. **Website:** www.stratfor.com

China's Regulatory State: A New Strategy for Globalization by Roselyn Hsueh, Publisher: Cornell University Press. **Website:** www.cornellpress.cornell.edu

Living in the Endless City edited by Ricky Burdett and Deyan Sudjic, Publisher: Phaidon. The city is the subject of the 21st century. All over the world, populations are shifting towards urban centres. *Living in the Endless City* depicts an authoritative survey of cities of today and the prospects for our urban future of tomorrow. 36 contributors from across Europe, South America, China, Africa and the U.S. set the agenda for the city - detailing its successes as well as its failures. **Website:** <http://www.urban-age.net/publications/living-in-the-endless-city/>

Consumptionomics: Asia's Role in Reshaping Capitalism by Chandran Nair, Publisher: Infinite Ideas. **Website:** www.amazon.com

World 3.0: Global Prosperity and How to Achieve It by Pankaj Ghemawat, Publisher: Harvard Business School Press. **Website:** www.amazon.com

The China Miracle: Development Strategy and Economic Reform by Justin Yifu Lin, Publisher: The Chinese University Press. **Website:** www.eurospanbookstore.com

The End of Cheap China: Economic and Cultural Trends that will Disrupt the World by Shaun Rein, Publisher: John Wiley and Sons. **Website:** www.amazon.com

Global Slump: The Economics and Politics of Crisis and Resistance by David McNally, Publisher: PM Press. *Global Slump* analyzes the global financial meltdown as the first systemic crisis of the neoliberal stage of capitalism. It argues that – far from having ended – the crisis has ushered in a whole period of worldwide economic and political turbulence. In developing an account of the crisis as rooted in fundamental features of capitalism, *Global*

Slump challenges the view that its source lies in financial deregulation. **Website:** https://secure.pmpress.org/index.php?l=product_detail&p=271

Creative Ecologies: Where Thinking is a Proper Job by John Howkins, Publisher: UQP. **Website:** www.creativeeconomy.com/think.htm

Breakout Nations by Ruchir Sharma, Publisher: Penguin. *Breakout Nations* offers journeys through more than two dozen of the most interesting economies in the emerging world. **Website:** <http://breakoutnations.com/>

Light Manufacturing in Africa by Hinh T. Dinh et al, Publisher: World Bank. This book examines how light manufacturing can offer a viable solution for sub-Saharan Africa's need for structural transformation and productive job creation, given its potential competitiveness based on low wage costs and an abundance of natural resources that supply raw materials needed for industries. **Website:** <http://issuu.com/world.bank.publications/docs/9780821389614>

Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty by Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson, Publisher: Profile Books. **Website:** www.amazon.com

Arrival City by Doug Saunders, Publisher: Pantheon. A third of humanity is on the move. History's largest migration is creating new urban spaces that are this century's focal points of conflict and change — centres of febrile settlement that will reshape our cities and reconfigure our economies. **Website:** <http://arrivalcity.net/>

China: And the End of Poverty in Africa – Towards Mutual Benefit? by Penny Davis, Publisher: Diakonia and the European Network on Debt and Development. **Website:** www.eurodad.org/uploadedFiles/Whats_New/Reports/Kinarapport_A4.pdf

Globalization and Competition: Why Some Emergent Countries Succeed while Others Fall Behind by Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira, Publisher: Cambridge University Press. **Website:** www.networkideas.org/book/jan2010/bk12_GACL.htm

State of the Field in Youth Enterprise, Employment, and Livelihoods Development Publisher: Making Cents International. This practical resource features learning from over 80 leading organizations that are working around the world to increase and improve economic opportunities for young people. Topics include youth enterprise development; workforce development; youth-inclusive financial services; working with adolescent girls and young women; and monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment. **Website:** www.YouthEconomicOpportunities.org/media.asp

Vitamin Green: The Definitive Guide to the World of Contemporary Sustainable Design: Features 100 Innovative Projects from Around the World by editors of Phaidon Press, Publisher: Phaidon Press. **Website:** <http://uk.phaidon.com/store/architecture/vitamin-green-9780714862293/>

Makers: The New Industrial Revolution By Chris Anderson, Publisher: Crown Business. **Website:** www.amazon.com

Papers and Reports

African Economic Outlook 2012: Promoting Youth Employment Publisher: Various. With almost 200 million people aged between 15 and 24, Africa has the youngest population in the world. This number will double by 2045. Many jobs have been created over the last decade, but the pace needs to accelerate significantly to match the demand of Africa's next generations.

Website: <http://www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en/>

State of China's Cities: 2010/2011: Better City, Better Life Publisher: UNHABITAT.

Website: www.scribd.com/doc/39882697/State-of-China-s-Cities-Report-2010-2011

Still our Common Interest: Commission for Africa Report 2010 Publisher: Commission for Africa

Website: www.commissionforafrica.info/2010-report

World Economic Outlook Update: Restoring Confidence without Harming Recovery Publisher: IMF.

Website: www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2010/update/02/index.htm

Empowering People and Transforming Society: The World Economic Forum's Technology Pioneers 2011 Publisher: World Economic Forum.

Website: www.scribd.com/doc/35953976/Technology-Pioneers-2011

The Emerging Middle Class in Developing Countries Publisher: OECD.

Website: www.oecdilibrary.org/oecd/content/workingpaper/5kmmp8lncrns-en (PDF - 2.09 mb)

The Implications of China's Ascendancy for Africa by Hany Besada, Publisher: The Centre for International Governance Innovation. This paper examines the extent to which China's engagement with Africa has produced mutual benefits for both and whether Africa is reaping the necessary benefits required for poverty alleviation and economic development.

Website: http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper_40-web.pdf

Global Economic Decoupling Alive and Well Emerging economies decouple from the US, come closer to Europe.

Website: <http://www.marketoracle.co.uk/Article23670.html>

The Global Financial Crisis and Africa's "Immiserizing Wealth", Research Brief, United Nations University, Number 1 2010.

Website: www.unu.edu/publications/briefs/policy-briefs/2010/UNU_ResearchBrief_10-01.pdf

Africa begins to make poverty history: US economists challenge conventional view that the continent is a basket case

Website: www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/mar/03/africa-makes-poverty-history

New Magazine

African Innovator Magazine has launched: AIM showcases innovative technology solutions to business challenges on the continent.

Website: <http://www.africaninnovatormagazine.com/>

On the Web

Blogs and Websites

African Robotics Network: The African Robotics Network (AFRON) is a community of institutions, organizations and individuals engaged in robotics in Africa. AFRON seeks to promote communication and collaborations that will enhance robotics-related education, research and industry on the continent. To achieve this, AFRON organizes projects, meetings and events in Africa at robotics and automation conferences abroad.

Website: <http://robotics-africa.org/>

Polis: A collaborative blog about cities around the globe.

Website: <http://www.thepolisblog.org/2012/03/coca-cola-in-africa.html>

mDirectory: The mDirectory is the most comprehensive database of information on mobile tech for social change on the Web: case studies, mobile tools, research, and how-to guides.

Website: <http://mobileactive.org/directory>

Global Development: Launched in September 2010, this website from the Guardian newspaper tracks progress on the MDGs, encourages debate on its blogs, offers a rich store of datasets from around the world, and features monthly podcasts and resources for schools.

Website: www.guardian.co.uk/global-development

Latameconomy: Latameconomy.org is the latest evolution of the annual Latin American Economic Outlook report, essentially bringing its trusted, high quality content into the digital age. Its wide country coverage and methods of analysis are essential for anyone seeking to understand the economic, social and political developments of Latin American countries.

Website: www.latameconomy.org/en/

International Development Economics Associates (IDEAs): International Development Economics Associates (IDEAs) is a pluralist network of progressive economists across the world, engaged in research, teaching and dissemination of critical analyses of economic policy and development.

Website: www.networkideas.org/

OECD: Tackling the economic crisis website: The global economic crisis is entering a new phase amid signs of a return to positive growth in many countries. But unemployment is likely to remain high and much still needs to be done to underpin a durable recovery. This website will track the recovery.

Website: http://www.oecd.org/document/24/0,3343,en_2649_201185_41707672_1_1_1,1,00.html

The Global Urbanist: News and analysis of cities around the world: planning, governance, economy, communities, environment and international.

Website: globalurbanist.com

ICT Update: A bimonthly printed bulletin, a web magazine, and an accompanying email newsletter that explores innovative uses of information technology in agriculture and rural development in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries.

Website: <http://ictupdate.cta.int/en/Regulars/Perspectives/%28issue%29/56>

Youth-Inclusive Financial Services (YFS-Link) Program: The first space for financial services providers (FSPs) and youth-service organizations (YSOs) to gather, learn and share about youth-inclusive financial services.

Website: yfslink.org

Triple Crisis Blog: Global Perspectives on Finance, Development and Environment

Website: <http://triplecrisis.com/>

Full Disclosure: The Aid Transparency Blog: A Devex blog, written by members of the international community.

Website: www.devex.com/en/blogs/full-disclosure

Africa Portal: An online knowledge resource offering researchers and opinion leaders a forum to share their insights on Africa and publish their work on pressing areas of concern to policymakers and the public. It aims to fill the gap in accessibility to research and information on policy issues on the continent.

Website: africaportal.org

African Economic Outlook: A unique online tool that puts rigorous economic data, information and research on Africa at your fingertips. A few clicks gives access to comprehensive analyses of African economies, placed in their social and political contexts. This is the only place where African countries are examined through a common analytical framework, allowing you to compare economic prospects at the regional, sub-regional and country levels.

Website: africaneconomicoutlook.org/en

Africa Renewal: The *Africa Renewal* information programme, produced by the Africa Section of the United Nations Department of Public Information, provides up-to-date information and analysis of the major economic and development challenges facing Africa today.

Website: www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/afrec/

Timbuktu Chronicles: A blog by Emeka Okafor: "a view of Africa and Africans with a focus on entrepreneurship, innovation, technology, practical remedies and other self-sustaining activities."

Website: <http://timbuktuchronicles.blogspot.com/>

AfriGadget: AfriGadget is a must-read for African invention junkies. They are always on the look out for ingenious innovation that is new or a repurposing of existing technology in a new way, interesting in the sense that the story captures the imagination of others, inspiring others to see solutions in uncommon ways, practical ideas that solve problems in a demonstrable way, and entrepreneurs who are inventing new products or solutions.

Website: www.afrigadget.com

Interesting Blogger

Emeka Okafor, Timbuktu Chronicles: Emeka Okafor is an entrepreneur and venture catalyst who lives in New York City. He is the curator of Maker Faire Africa. He was the director for TED Global 2007 that took place in Arusha, Tanzania. In addition he is a member of the TED fellowship team. His interests include sustainable technologies in the developing world and paradigm-breaking technologies in general. His blog, Timbuktu Chronicles, seeks to spur dialogue in areas of entrepreneurship, technology and the scientific method as it impacts Africa.

Website: <http://timbuktuchronicles.blogspot.co.uk/>

Notable Websites

African Brains: The Home of Intelligent Networking: African Brains - for forward thinking, intelligent Africans to network and propose new ideas and technologies to the world.

Website: www.africanbrains.net

Arab Brains: The Home of Intelligent Networking: Arab Brains has been established to connect innovative Arabs across the Arab World and beyond.

Website: <http://arabbrains.com/>

Social Media

Africa Entrepreneurship Platform: This ground breaking initiative is created as a forum to showcase innovative ideas and businesses from Africa that have the ability to scale internationally, driving job creation and sustainable economic development between Africa and the Americas.

Website: www.sacca.biz

AfriGadget on Facebook: 'Solving everyday problems with African ingenuity':

Website: www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2402629579

Start-up Funding

Hubs!

They are sprouting up all over the place and now there is a map showing where they are in Africa.

Website: <https://africahubs.crowdmap.com/#>

And there are 18 in Latin America too.

Website: <http://thenextweb.com/la/2012/08/11/18-latin-american-tech-hubs-know/>

The SEED Initiative

Hosted by the UN Environment Programme's World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the SEED Initiative is a global partnership for action on the Green Economy. The annual SEED Awards help to develop the most promising social and environmental start-ups in emerging economies and developing countries.

Website: <http://unep.org/newscentre/Default.aspx?DocumentID=2647&ArticleID=8798&l=en>

The Pioneers of Prosperity Grant and Award

This competition is a partnership between the OTF Group and the John F. Templeton Foundation of the United States, and promotes companies in East Africa by identifying local role models that act as examples of sustainable businesses in their country/region. It is open to businesses from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

Five pioneers will receive US \$50,000 to re-invest in their business. It is open to for-profit businesses that provide high wages to their workers and that operate in sustainable ways.

Website: <http://pioneersofprosperity.org/index.php>

Oxford Said Business School Youth Business Development Competition

Open to youth between 16 and 21 across the world, the competition is run by students at Oxford University to promote social enterprise. A prize fund of £2,000 in seed capital is up for grabs. It calls itself the 'world's first global youth development competition'.

Website: www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/oba/se/ybd

Challenge

Rwanda Innovation Endowment Fund (RIEF): Rwanda Research Innovation Endowment Fund (RIEF) was established and is managed by the Government of Rwanda, through the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) in partnership with UNECA (SRO-EA & ISTD) under One UN Rwanda. The objective of this Fund is to stimulate economic transformation through R&D in innovative market-oriented products and processes in priority areas of the economy, thereby increasing prosperity and the competitiveness of the Rwandan economy. The orientation can be either for economic growth, social development or combination of the two.

Website: <http://www.mineduc.gov.rw/spip.php?article21>

The Innovation Prize for Africa (IPA): The **United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)** and the **African Innovation Foundation (AIF)** are delighted to announce the call for applications for the 2013 **Innovation Prize for Africa (IPA)**. Too often, innovators and entrepreneurs are not highly profiled on the African development agenda. It is IPA's mission to elevate attention around innovative work and help support the vision of entrepreneurs. The prize honours and encourages innovative achievements that contribute towards the development of new products, increased efficiency or cost savings in Africa. The prize also promotes the efforts of young African men and women pursuing science, technology and engineering careers as well as business opportunities that aim to contribute to sustainable development in Africa.

Website: <http://innovationprizeforafrica.org/>

Video

Forum for the Future

Compelling animated videos exploring the hard choices of an urbanizing world and the need to promote sustainable development and environmental harmony

Website: <http://www.youtube.com/user/forumforthefuture96>

EVENTS

Have an event you would like the South-South community to know about? Then send details to developmentchallenges@googlemail.com.

2012

December

Have an event you would like the South-South community to know about? Then send details to developmentchallenges@googlemail.com.

2013

April

Source Africa – The African Textile, Apparel and Footwear Trade Event

Cape Town, South Africa (9-12 April 2013)

Source Africa shows off the quality, creativity, reliability, and sophistication of apparel manufacturing in Africa targeting a global audience of buyers, business leaders and service providers. SOURCE Africa will bring together business leaders and decision makers from across Africa, providing opportunities for international buyers to network with African manufacturers. By bringing Africa to the world of Sourcing, SOURCE Africa provides unparalleled resources and opportunities to buyers ... all under one roof.

Website: <http://www.sourceafrica.co.za/>

October

7th ECOWAS Trade Fair

Accra, Ghana (24 October to 4 November 2013)

The regional fair, which is now a biennial event, was instituted to boost intra-community trade which presently hovers between 11 and 15 percent, and thereby contributing to the improved implementation of the ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme (ETLS). It will also contribute to empowering local producers and stimulating the regional economy.

Website: <http://www.ecowas.int/>

Have an event you would like the South-South community to know about? Then send details to
developmentchallenges@googlemail.com.

AWARDS AND FUNDING

The EU Contest for Young Scientists

The European Union (EU) Contest for Young Scientists, an initiative of the European Commission, was set up to promote the ideals of co-operation and interchange between young scientists.

Website: http://ec.europa.eu/research/youngscientists/index_en.cfm?pg=history

2013 Innovation Prize for Africa

The second round of the Innovation Prize for Africa (IPA), which aims to reward innovation across Africa in key sectors of interest, has been launched. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) expect the prize to promote among young African men and women in the pursuit of science, technology and engineering careers and business applications. The aims are to:

- Mobilize leaders from all sectors to fuel African innovation;
- Promote innovation across Africa in key sectors of interest through the competition;
- Promote science, technology and engineering as rewarding, exciting and noble career options among the youth in Africa by profiling success applicants; and
- Encourage entrepreneurs, innovators, funding bodies and business development service providers to exchange ideas and explore innovative business opportunities.

Website: innovationPrizeForAfrica.org

World Summit Youth Award

The international contest for young people using the Internet and mobiles to take action on the UN Millennium Development Goals.

Website: www.youthaward.org

Grand Challenges Canada: Request for Proposals

Grand Challenges Canada is pleased to announce a new initiative in its Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health grand challenge. It's called Saving Brains. Its goal is to unlock potential in children and dramatically transform lives in the developing world. The money to fund this program comes from the Development Innovation Fund. In Budget 2008, the Government of Canada committed \$225 million CAD over five years to the Development

Innovation Fund, to support the best minds in the world in a collaborative search for solutions to global health challenges. For the Request for Proposals:

Website: [http://www.grandchallenges.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/Request for Proposals-Saving Brains EN.pdf](http://www.grandchallenges.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/Request%20for%20Proposals-Saving%20Brains%20EN.pdf)

Zayed Future Energy Prize

The world is in desperate need of innovative solutions to create a new, sustainable energy future. No one knows who or where the next great energy solution will come from. Solutions and technologies that could change the world are being developed globally, and the \$2.2 million Zayed Future Energy Prize, managed by Masdar in Abu Dhabi, recognizes and rewards innovation, leadership, and long-term vision in renewable energy and sustainability.

Website: www.zayedfutureenergyprize.com/

Philips Liveable Cities Award

Philips is looking for individuals and community or non-government organizations and businesses with ideas for "simple solutions" that will improve people's health and well-being in a city to enter the Philips Liveable Cities Award. To help translate these ideas into reality, three Award grants totalling €125,000 are on the line. One overall winning idea from any of the three categories outlined below will receive a grant of €75,000, while the two additional ideas will receive grants of €25,000.

Website: <http://www.because.philips.com/livable-cities-award/about-the-award>

Piramal Foundation in India

Has established a US \$25,000 prize for ideas that help advance full access to effective public health care in India. The Piramal Prize is a \$25,000 Social Entrepreneurship Competition focused on democratizing health care in India that seeks to encourage and support bold entrepreneurial ideas which can profoundly impact access to higher standards of health for India's rural and marginalized urban communities. The award recognizes high-impact, scalable business models and innovative solutions that directly or indirectly address India's health-care crisis.

Website: www.piramalprize.org

Special Award for South-South Transfer

The aim of the award is to identify, provide visibility, and honour those who have successfully shared their projects and approaches internationally, thereby increasing the impact of the initiative. The winning practice receives US \$15,000 to further transfer the awarded practice to other communities in developing countries.

Website: www.southsouthexpo.org

South-South Experience Exchange Facility

Supported by Mexico, China, India, Denmark, Spain, The Netherlands, and the U.K. and now Colombia, the South-South Experience Exchange Facility is a multi-donor trust fund that promotes the idea that developing countries can learn from the successes of other developing countries in overcoming similar challenges. In the past 12 months, the trust has given out 35 grants to countries for learning activities ranging from working with at risk youth in the Caribbean to outsourcing IT services in Africa.

Website: www.southsouthcases.info

African Writers Fund

Together with the Ford Foundation, the Fund supports the work of independent creative writers living on the continent. The Fund recognizes the vital role that poets and novelists play in Africa by anticipating and reflecting the cultural, economic and political forces that continuously shape and reshape societies.

Website: http://www.trustafrika.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=91&Itemid=90&lang=fr

Joint NAM S&T Centre - ICCS Fellowship Programme

Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) and International Center for Chemical Sciences (ICCS), (H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Centre for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research), University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan

[Click here for more information](#)

or contact: namstct@vsnl.com, namstct@bol.net.in, apknam@gmail.com

PhD Plant Breeding Scholarships at the University of Ghana

The University of Ghana (www.ug.edu.gh) has been awarded a project support grant by the Alliance for a Green Revolution (www.agra-alliance.org) in Africa (a joint venture between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, for the establishment of a West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI). This is available to scientists working at NARIs, universities and international centres in West Africa. Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply for a fellowship under this programme.

Website: www.wacci.org.za/Default.asp?nav=Home&idno=10

Genesis: India's Premier Social Entrepreneurship Competition

Is a social entrepreneurship competition aiming to bring together social entrepreneurs, students, NGOs, innovators, incubators, corporations and financiers and encourage them to come up with innovative ideas which are socially relevant and feasible.

Website: <http://genesis.iitm.ac.in/>

TRAINING AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Weitzenegger's International Development Job Market

Website: www.weitzenegger.de/new/jobmarket.php

Global Knowledge Initiative

The Global Knowledge Initiative seeks to build global knowledge partnerships between individuals and institutions of higher education and research. It seeks to help partners access the global knowledge, technology, and human resources needed to sustain growth and achieve prosperity for all."

Website: www.globalknowledgeinitiative.org/

ExportHelp - Promoting and supporting access to the European market

The European Commission runs a database for the explicit support of market players in developing countries who want to bring their products to the EU market. The database gives an overview on the EU's preferential trade regimes established for developing countries as well as lists all tariffs, taxes and other requirements for goods imported into the EU.

Website: <http://exporthelp.europa.eu>

Development Executive Group Devex Networking Website

Over 90,000 global experts can network and connect and learn about more than 47,000 registered projects.

Website: www.devex.org

Website Offers Career Advice to Young Africans

Set up by the Commonwealth Secretariat, Africancareerguidance.com is aimed at providing career guidance to African youth and helping them to link with prospective employers. AfricaRecruit is a human resources organization that provides skills training for African professionals in the Diaspora and on the continent. The website has an inbuilt email subscriber list for all its users and offers a searchable database of career profiles for job seekers and prospective employers. It also offers skills and interest assessments and advice on CV and résumé preparation. It provides tips about interviewing techniques, as well as information on internship and volunteer opportunities, and entrepreneurial skills.

Website: www.africacareerguidance.com

African Diaspora Skills Database

This database was compiled to provide an overview of qualified African Diaspora professionals with varied areas of expertise and experience. The African Diaspora contributes substantially to the social, economic and political development of Africa, and this database is set up to further mobilize this considerable potential.

Website: www.diaspora-centre.org/NEWSLETTER/Database

Aid Workers Network (AWN)

Aid Workers Network (AWN) is an online platform for aid, relief and development workers to ask and answer questions of each other, and to exchange resources and information. AWN is registered in the United Kingdom as a charity. You will find discussions about a range of questions and issues on the AWN forum from aid, relief and development workers all over the world and representing a variety of fields, with new threads or responses posted daily. The forum is a great way to get in contact with other aid and development workers in your geographic area or working in a similar area of work.

Website: www.aidworkers.net

Bizzlounge

Bizzlounge is where people committed to ethical behaviour meet, who want to establish and maintain business contacts in an exclusive and relaxed environment.

Website: <http://bizzlounge.com>

Business Action for Africa

Business Action for Africa is a network of businesses and business organizations working collectively to accelerate growth and poverty reduction in Africa.

Website: <http://businessactionforafrica.blogspot.com>

Business Fights Poverty

Business Fights Poverty is a professional network for all those passionate about fighting world poverty through the power of good business.

Website: <http://businessfightspoverty.ning.com>

Business in Development Network (BiD)

The BiD Network Foundation runs the BiD Challenge to contribute to sustainable economic development by stimulating entrepreneurship in developing countries.

Website: www.bidnetwork.org

Zunia

By Development Exchange, it offers news, publications and networking opportunities with the world's development community.

Website: www.zunia.org

Catalogue of Poverty Networks

UNDP is organizing an online catalogue of Poverty Networks as a means to facilitate access to knowledge and sharing this to a wider audience in 189 countries. Poverty Networks are web-based platforms that provide space for sharing and disseminating development-related information and initiatives. Below you will find information on IPC's collaborating networks, which help foster dialogue between researchers, policymakers, civil society and multilateral organizations.

Website: www.undp-povertycentre.org/povnet.do

Connections for Development (CfD)

CfD is a UK, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) led, membership based organization committed to ensuring that UK BME communities, and the organizations they are involved in, are supported in the process of shaping and delivering policy and projects that affect their countries of origin or interest – collectively "our world".

Website: www.cfdnetwork.co.uk

Development Crossing

Development Crossing was set up in 2006 by a small group of friends with diverse backgrounds ranging from business consulting to international development. In a world where the environment, corporate responsibility, and sustainable development are becoming increasingly intertwined, our goal was to create a site where individuals that shared our passion could keep up-to-date with relevant happenings in the world and connect with like-minded individuals. The idea behind Development Crossing is to provide a social network that brings together people from a variety of sectors, countries and professions to discuss corporate social responsibility and sustainable development.

Website: www.developmentcrossing.com

DevelopmentAid.org

The one-stop-information-shop for the developmental sector, DevelopmentAid.org is a membership organization that brings together information for developmental professionals, NGOs, consultancy firms and donors.

Website: www.developmentaid.org

Zunia.org

Zunia.org, a free online service by the Development Gateway Foundation is devoted to knowledge-sharing and collaboration for people working to reduce poverty in the developing world.

Website: <http://topics.developmentgateway.org>

Diaspora African Forum

This Forum exists "to invite and encourage the full participation of Africans in the Diaspora in the building of the African Union, in its capacity as an important part of the Continent". We will provide the vital linkage for Diaspora Africans to become involved in Africa's development as well as reap the fruits of African unity.

Website: www.diasporafricanforum.org

Business Planet: a new data map on Entrepreneurship

Business Planet, an interactive Google map, now includes data on new business creation around the world. Measures of entrepreneurial activity are based on the number of total and newly registered corporations. Click on colour markers to learn more about each country.

Website: <http://rru.worldbank.org/businessplanet/default.aspx?pid=8>